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Investigation of a case of smallpox at Clarksdale, Miss.

MEMPHIS, TENN., November 13, 1896.

SIR: In compliance with telegraphic orders, received the evening of the 11th, I yesterday visited Clarksdale, Miss., and investigated the reported prevalence of smallpox. I found that on or about the 21st of October one of the local physicians had reported the presence of a suspicious case to Dr. R. C. Buck, the local health officer. Dr. Buck was unable to decide at first as to the nature of the case, but imposed quarantine upon the other inmates of the house and vaccinated them. The patient was a negro woman, and the family consisted of the husband and one child. The house in which the case occurred is situated in the extreme edge of town. On the 23d day of October the case was fully declared as smallpox, and the entire family were removed to the county pesthouse, near Friars Point. The house was then disinfected with sulphur, the bedding burned, a yellow flag displayed, all doors locked and the keys taken by Dr. Buck. As this was nineteen days ago, and as no new cases have developed, there seems no reason to fear further trouble.

The woman is reported as convalescing. The husband and child have not taken the disease. I was unable to get any satisfactory history of the source of infection. The woman says she entertained a colored clergyman said to have been from Helena, Ark., some week or so before being taken sick, but her husband says the clergyman was not from Helena. Another woman reports that the patient recently visited in Bolivar County. There was smallpox in Bolivar last winter, but none has been reported since.

It is only about 20 miles from Clarksdale to Helena, Ark., and as there have been 20 cases at the latter place it is probable the infection came from there in some way.

I have arranged with Dr. Buck to keep me informed as far as possible of the appearance of any suspicious disease among the negro settlements in the river neighborhood of Coahoma County and upper edge of Bolivar County, in which there is some reason to suppose smallpox will reappear this winter.

Very respectfully, yours,

G. B. YOUNG,
*Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.**One case of smallpox in Pensacola, Fla.*

PENSACOLA, FLA., November 20, 1896.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that a case of smallpox has been reported to the board of health by Drs. Renshaw and Simpson. The victim is a young white man by the name of James White, living in the eastern part of the city. * * *

Respectfully, yours,

J. WHITING HARGIS,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

PENSACOLA, FLA., November 24, 1896.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you of another case of smallpox reported to the board of health this morning in a young white man by the name of Curo, living in the eastern part of the city. The number of cases of smallpox reported to the board of health since last March, up to date, is 44. There are at present 4 cases in the city. I will keep you posted from time to time in regard to situation.

Respectfully, yours,

J. WHITING HARGIS,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.